

John 3:1-17

Jesus and Nicodemus

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

³ Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

⁴ Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ ⁸ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

¹⁰ “Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? ¹¹ I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One^l be lifted up ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶ God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷ God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Ellijay First United Methodist Church

75 McCutchen Street, P.O. Box 472

Ellijay, GA 30540

Dr. John Brantley

March 5, 2023 Second Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship - The Color is Purple

The Worship of God

Welcome and Announcements

The Chiming of the Hour

Focusing Words: Look to the mountains and know this truth: God, our help, is stronger, larger, and mightier than the mightiest mountain. God’s help is stronger than any trouble this world can throw our way.

Prelude “Ash Grove Variations” arr. by Howard Helvey

*Call to Worship “Were You There?” Jan Day & Judith Rathbone

† The Greeting

Leader: God calls with a blessing.

People: Our help is in God.

Leader: God calls with a promise.

People: Our help is in God.

Leader: God calls through our questions.

People: Our help is in God.

Leader: God calls through the Spirit.

People: Our help is in God.

† The Invocation

† The Hymn of Praise “Lift High the Cross” UMH 159

† The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

† The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

† The Hymn of Preparation “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

† Congregation Standing (as able) UMH-United Methodist Hymnal
*11:00 am Service Only TFWS-The Faith We Sing
8:45 am Service Only

You Are Welcome Here

You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your Heavenly Father. Come then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips, into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the men and women who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this historic place of worship and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with prayer and praise. Beseech His blessings on those who love this house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest upon your going out and your coming in.

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music “The Gift of Life” arr. by Jonas Myrin

† The Presentation and Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Anthem “At the Supper of the Lamb”
Traditional Irish Melody, arr. by Lee & Susan Dengler

The Scripture John 3:1-17 CEB

The Sermon “Birthed Again” The Rev. Dr. Beth Sanders

Sacrament of Holy Communion UMH 12

† The Closing Hymn “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” TFWS 2088
(sing twice)

† The Benediction

*† The Choral Benediction “O How He Loves You & Me” by Kurt Kaiser

The Postlude “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” arr. by Lloyd Larson

Invitation to Church Membership

Anyone wishing to join this church by profession of faith or by transfer of your membership, please come forward during the closing hymn or speak to the pastor following worship. Know that you are always welcome.